

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the interview conducted with the Examiner and the kind attention and suggestions provided by the Examiner during the interview. The Interview Summary mailed August 14, 2009 is substantially correct.

The claims have been amended as to form and to detail the recited subject matter. See, e.g., Figures 20-23, as well as the related specification disclosure beginning on page 43, line 4.

No new matter is entered by way of these amendments. Entry of this amendment is solicited.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by MORIYAMA 4,680,647.

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Applicants respectfully submit that MORIYAMA does not disclose every element recited in claims 1-17 and therefore does not anticipate these claims.

More specifically, claim 1 recites an information record medium, which includes "reproduction control information which reproduces the audio information simultaneously with reproduction of the still picture information, wherein, the reproduction control information includes audio repeat information for controlling repeat reproduction of the same audio

information simultaneously with reproduction of the still picture information." The remaining claims each have a similar recitation.

Thus, each of the independent claims includes the feature of the same audio information being repeatedly reproduced during the reproduction of the still picture information. MORIYAMA fails to disclose at least this feature.

On page 3 of the Official Action (first two full paragraphs), it is stated that MORIYAMA teaches "wherein the reproduction control information includes audio repeat information for controlling repeat reproduction of the same audio information simultaneously with the still picture information, because Moriyama teaches adding several types of audio to a still image recording, in order to add selection of recordings of audio information (col. 6, l. 9-51). Moriyama teaches successive reproduction for audio data and still image mode (col. 5, l. 5-68; col. 43, l. 10-67), or reproduction in response to a control signal supplied from an external source (col. 39, l. 46-col. 40, l. 39). Moriyama teaches wherein the audio repeat information indicates whether or not to repeatedly reproduce the same audio information (col. 49, l. 27-58), because Moriyama teaches switching between successive and unsuccessive reproduction."

MORIYAMA discloses that "a method for recording and reproducing a video format signal in which reproduced sounds based on audio data items accompanying a plurality of still

images can successively be generated". See column 5, lines 5-9. This only discloses generating audio information at the same time video information is generated.

MORIYAMA uses the term successively to mean "one after another". "Successively" does not mean "repeat reproduction" or looping of a specific audio information.

Indeed, there is no discussion or suggestion in this passage (or any other passage) of the same audio information being repeatedly reproduced during the reproduction of the still picture information.

At column 6, lines 1-45, MORIYAMA teaches reproducing a video format signal in which different items of selected audio information are also reproduced. However, again there is no mention of the selected audio information being repeatedly reproduced during the reproduction of the still picture information.

MORIYAMA Figure 11 and column 10, beginning at line 15, disclose reproducing a still image with general audio information. Although there is disclosure of how to reproduce audio information at the same time video information is being reproduced, there is nothing in this passage that addresses repeatedly reproducing a same audio information while the video information is being reproduced.

The Official Action states that MORIYAMA discloses successive reproduction of audio information. However, what this

means is a sequence of audio information is reproduced one audio information after another audio information, i.e., in succession. See column 43, beginning at line 10. However, there is no discussion of the same audio information being repeatedly reproduced at the same time video information is being reproduced.

The Official Action stated (page 3, second full paragraph) that "Moriyama teaches wherein the audio repeat information indicates whether or not to repeatedly reproduce the same audio information (col. 49, l. 27-58), because Moriyama teaches switching between successive and unsuccessive reproduction."

This passage of MORIYAMA discloses (emphasis added):
"With the present invention, ... audios digitized and recorded in a video format signal can successively be reproduced without interruption. Switching between successive reproduction and unsuccessive reproduction in the reproducing system can automatically be effected by referring to audio data and recorded control signals, so that the reproducing system can be operated with ease. The system of the invention can therefore handle various forms of video data. For example, still images can successively be reproduced while producing audios. Audio segments can be added to a still image or the like with a small buffer memory in the reproducing system through successive reproduction."

"Although in the above embodiment different kinds of sounds and characters are given to a still image and can be selectively read out, not only characters may be recorded but the answer to a problem presented in the form of a still image may be recorded as a digital signal, and symbols or the like may be displayed. An image to which sounds, characters, and the like are added is not limited to a still image, but may be a moving image or successively changing images. Although in the embodiment digital data items such as sounds and characters as they are read out of the large-capacity buffer memory are selected, they may be selected when they are written into the large-capacity buffer memory. With such an alternative, however, it is not possible to issue different sounds and characters successively while only one still image is being reproduced. The capacity of the memory may be small since all kinds of audio and characters are written therein."

To repeat what has been reviewed above, "successively" does not mean "repeatedly reproduce the same information".

Accordingly, MORIYAMA fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 8-17 are patentably distinguishable over MORIYAMA. Likewise, claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1 are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the 35

U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1-17 over MORIYAMA be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive and to put the case in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Roland E. Long, Jr./
Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
209 Madison Street
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telexfax (703) 685-0573

REL/lrs